

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 34

RADIO/TV

1. SCHWEID, CBS RADIO, ALEXANDRIA: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT SAYS HE IS NOW READY TO INITIAL IMPENDING SINI AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. SADAT TOLD NEWSMEN IN ALEXANDRIA THAT ON EGYPT'S PART THERE IS NO HESITATION AT ALL. SADAT SPOKE TO NEWSMEN AS SECSTATE KISSINGER BROUGHT HIM A MUCH REVISED DRAFT FROM JERUSALEM. KISSINGER IS A BIT MORE RESERVED SAYING TALKS WERE NOW DOWN TO WIRE. BUT SADAT, ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY PROBLEMS FROM HIS SIDE THAT WOULD PREVENT AN AGREEMENT; REPLIED, NO, "I DON'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL."

2. KALB, CBS RADIO, JERUSALEM: PROJECTED U.S. PRESENCE IN SINAI PASSES CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO FILL A CREDIBILITY GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. NEITHER SIDE TRUST OTHER, WHICH IS PUTTING IT MILDLY, BUT BOTH SIDES SEE VALUE OF AN AMERICAN CONNECTION. HENCE, CONCEPT OF POSITIONING AN UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN SET OF EYES WITH 20-20 VISION, DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING, THAT IS, IN SINAI BUFFER ZONE ON CONSTANT LOOKOUT FOR SUDDEN TROOP MOVEMENTS BY EITHER ISRAELIS OR EGYPTIANS.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT NUMBER OF AMERICANS PROJECTED UNDER AGREEMENT IS UNDER 100, THESE BEING CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS PLUS A NUMBER OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL. AMERICANS WOULD SERVE IN AT LEAST FOUR POINTS AS AGREEMENT IS NOW BEING REPORTED -- A TOKEN FORCE OF AMERICANS WOULD JOIN ISRAELIS AT UM HOSHIVA OUTPOST. ANOTHER SUCH TOKEN FORCE TO JOIN EGYPTIANS AT AN OUTPOST THAT STILL MUST BE BUILT. AMERICANS WILL ALSO OPERATE TWO STATIONS ON THEIR OWN. THEY ALSO MAY SERVICE A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF UNMANNED ELECTRONIC SENSOR POINTS THAT CAN DETECT MILITARY MOVEMENT. POSITIONING OF AMERICANS IN BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN TWO ADVERSARIES WOULD IN EFFECT PROVIDE OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE ON MILITARY MOVEMENTS OF BOTH SIDES; IN OTHER WORDS, AMERICANS WOULD BE EYEWITNESS TO WHETHER MILITARY ASPECT OF AGREEMENT IS BEING RESPECTED OR VIOLATED AND BY WHOM.

3. MORTON DEAN/KALB, CBS RADIO, JERUSALEM: DEAN: ONE OF WIRE SERVICES THIS MORNING IS QUOTING A HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL AS SAYING, "IF CONGRESS DOESN'T AGREE TO SENDING OF THOSE TECHNICIANS, PERHAPS ISRAEL MIGHT NOT AGREE TO PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON AGREEMENT, WON'T SIGN IT.

KALB: THAT IS A POSSIBILITY. I SPENT MORNING, FOR EXAMPLE TALKING TO AN OFFICIAL OF ISRAELI FM AND YOU GET FEELING ISRAEL MAY NOT SIGN, ALTHOUGH ISRAEL'S POSITION HAS NOT BEEN DEFINITELY WORKED OUT YET. I THINK UNDERCURRENT THING THAT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT EXPECT CONGRESS TO REJECT THAT PROPOSAL AND HAK IS KNOWN TO FEEL THAT WHILE CONGRESS MAY NOT BE WIDELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROPOSAL IT WILL ULTIMATELY GO ALONG WITH PROPOSAL AFTER SERIOUS DEBATE.

PAPERS

1. WASHPOST (BERGER) "A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED FOR FIRST TIME TODAY THAT A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT WILL HINGE ON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF USE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS"

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CIANS" AND THAT "THERE WOULD BE A MASSIVE PROBLEM" IF CONGRESS REJECTED THE PLAN.

"THUS HAK WILL PRESENT TO CONGRESS A FAIT ACCOMPLI THAT WILL OFFER A DIFFICULT CHOICE": PROVIDE FUNDS OR FACE FAILURE OF ME EFFORTS. "KISSINGER SAID THIS WEEK THAT 'OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT WE CAN GET IT THROUGH AFTER SOME SERIOUS DEBATE'."

REPORTERS WERE TOLD KISSINGER CAN BE EXPECTED TO TESTIFY BEFORE OPEN SESSIONS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OF BOTH HOUSES.

"AMERICAN OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TO SOME EXTENT ISRAEL CAN CONTROL PACE OF DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT. NO ONE EXPECTS THESE TO BE COMPLETED UNTIL CONGRESS HAS APPROVED FUNDS FOR TECHNICIANS, WHOSE PRESENCE ISRAEL CONSIDERS TO BE AN ADDED GUARANTEE OF PEACE.

A CHECK WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAS YIELDED NO EVIDENCE OF WIDESPREAD CONSULTATION BEFORE KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE FOR PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. WHITE HOUSE STARTED TRYING TO CONTACT KEY MEMBERS DURING ITS CURRENT RECESS, MAINLY BY TELEPHONE, TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE U.S. VOLUNTEER CIVILIAN CONTINGENT, BUT REPORTERS HERE WERE TOLD THAT HAK DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN CONTINUED DURING HIS ABSENCE.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO SPECIFY NUMBER OF EARLY-WARNING STATIONS THAT WILL BE MANNED BY AMERICANS ALONE."

THOUGH BERGER SAYS "THE TWO SIDES ARE LITERALLY INCHING ALONG" SHE REPORTS THAT SADAT HAS "NO HESITATION AT ALL IN INITIALLING THE AGREEMENT".

..."THIS PROFESSED READINESS TO MOVE AHEAD APPEARED DESIGNED AT LEAST IN PART TO PUT BURDEN OF ANY DELAY ON ISRAELIS.

THERE IS A GROWING SUSPICION THAT HAK AS WELL AS EGYPTIANS UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ISRAELIS ARE SEEKING TO TIME INITIALLING OF AGREEMENT FOR PRESS DISPLAY AFTER LABOR DAY HOLIDAY IN AMERICA. THIS COULD SERVE TO ENHANCE AN AGREEMENT THAT ACTUALLY LEAVES ISRAEL IN POSSESSION OF MOST OF SINAI, DESPITE MANY MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

BUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT JUST BEFORE OPENING OF SPECIAL SESSION OF GA OF UN COULD HELP IMPROVE IMAGE NOT ONLY OF ISRAEL BUT ALSO OF U.S., WHICH WILL BE ON DEFENSIVE AGAINST THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES DEMANDING ECONOMIC 'JUSTICE'.

SADAT REPEATED THAT HE WOULD BE PLANNING A VISIT TO U.S. IF AN AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED, BUT SAID NO DATE HAS BEEN SET."

2. NY TIMES (GWERTZMAN) HEADLINED "SADAT SET TO INITIAL PACT; ISRAEL UNSURE ON TERMS". GWERTZMAN STORY IS ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO OF PRO-AGREEMENT DEMONSTRATION IN TEL AVIV,

SADAT'S "NO HESITATION" REMARKS ARE REPORTED FIRST.

THEN, UPON RETURN FROM EGYPT THURSDAY "A HIGH ISRAELI OFFICIAL MEETING HAK AT AIRPORT CLENCHED HIS FIST WITH HIS HAND AND SAID EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING TO PRESS ISRAEL INTO DROPPING INSISTENCE ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FOR EGYPTIAN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS PROMISED IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS."

SECRETARY KISSINGER DECLINED TO GO AS FAR AS SADAT AND WORK STILL REMAINED ON ANNEXES AND PROTOCOLS OF ACCORD.

THE ACCORD:

- ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES;
- RETURN OF ABU RUDEIS;
- EGYPTIAN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL TO REDUCE CHANCES OF WAR SOON;
- U.S. "COMPENSATION: TO ISRAEL IN AID, REPLACEMENT OF OIL, CLOSER POLITICAL COORDINATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN FORM OF U.S. TECHNICIANS.

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..."REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD SUBMIT BILLS TO CONGRESS NEXT WEEK AUTHORIZING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR VOLUNTEERS IF ACCORD HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THEM. MR. KISSINGER WILL TESTIFY. HE BELIEVES THAT CONGRESS, PERHAPS WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM, WILL APPROVE LEGISLATION.

CONGRESS WILL HAVE VIRTUAL VETO POWER OVER SINAI ACCORD BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO SIGN IT UNLESS AMERICANS ARE PERMITTED IN PASSES.

UNDER DETAILS STILL NOT COMPLETED, AFTER INITIALING, ISRAEL AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, WILL GO TO GENEVA TO WORK OUT SO-CALLED MILITARY PROTOCOLS.

AFTER THIS IS DONE, TWO SIDES WILL SIGN PROTOCOLS IN GENEVA THUS PUTTING ACCORD INTO EFFECT. ALL THIS IS EXPECTED TO LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

...SADAT THOUGHT AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE A 'VERY POSITIVE' EFFECT ON EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH U.S., ALTHOUGH HE ADDED THAT TIES WERE ALREADY 'IN THE BEST.'

ASKED IF EGYPT NOW EXPECTED TO OBTAIN WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. TO OFFSET PREVIOUS RELIANCE ON SOVIET UNION, SADAT SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD A GROUP OF VISITING CONGRESSMEN THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO BUY ARMS FROM U.S. AND THAT THIS STILL WAS HIS HOPE.

HE SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM MOSCOW ABOUT PRESENT SINAI NEGOTIATIONS.

AGREEMENT, ISRAELIS SAID, WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC TEXT AND ACCOMPANYING MAP AND ANNEX, AND UNPUBLISHED U.S. MEMORANDUMS TO ISRAEL CITING BOTH EGYPTIAN ASSURANCES AND AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL.

MOST OF THE 'SECRET' ASPECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCLOSED IN ISRAELI AND AMERICAN PRESS, MUCH TO MR. KISSINGER'S CONCERN EARLY IN WEEK. HE FEARED SUCH DISCLOSURES MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR SADAT WHO HAS TO FACE CRITICISM IN ARAB UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD FOR BEING TOO CONCILIATORY TOWARD ISRAELIS.

MR. KISSINGER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT IMMINENT INITIALING OF ACCORD, SAID SIDES WERE NOW 'DOWN TO THE WIRE'. BUT AS MEDIATOR, HE WAS NOT WILLING TO GO MUCH BEYOND THAT."

3. CHICAGO TRIBUNE (MACLEAN) "A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL" SAID THAT THE PACT MAY BE INITIALLED SUNDAY OR MONDAY BUT LATER CAUTIONED THAT ISRAEL WOULD PROBABLY REFUSE TO SIGN IT UNLESS CONGRESS APPROVES THE STATIONING OF U.S. VOLUNTEERS IN SINAI. "A MASSIVE DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM WOULD ENSUE IF CONGRESS VETOED VOLUNTEER PLAN" ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL.

PERES SAYS THAT "THE PRESENCE OF AMERICANS ON FRONTLINE OF ME CONFLICT WILL ENSURE MAINTENANCE OF NEW AGREEMENT," AND FUNCTIONS NOW ASSIGNED TO UN FORCE WILL "NOW BE PARTIALLY PLACED ON SHOULDERS OF A LARGE AND RESPONSIBLE SUPERPOWER."

4. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (SCHMIDT). THE SINAI AGREEMENT WILL DEPEND ON CONGRESS NOW. "SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL ABOARD SECSTATE KISSINGER'S PLANE" EXPLAINED THAT
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